

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 SP-02 PM-04 ACDA-05 NRC-05 FEA-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07

DODE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 ERDA-05 SS-15 /084 W

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R 241252Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4212

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2773

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN, PFOR, US, IN

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY FOR TARAPUR

REF: A. STATE 35516, B. BOMBAY 0450 (NOTAL)

1. DURING A CALL BY THE DCM ON FEB. 17, MEA JOINT SECRETARY TEJA (AMERICA DIVISION) INQUIRED ABOUT THE DELAY IN PROVIDING THE EXPORT LICENSE FOR TARAPUR NUCLEAR FUEL. DCM RESPONDED DRAWING ON THE RATIONALE ASSISTANT SECRETARY KRATZER USED WITH INDIAN DCM VENKATESWARAN, FEB. 10 (REFTEL A).

2. IN BOMBAY LAST NIGHT, FEB. 23, J.C. SHAH, CHAIRMAN OF THE INDIAN ATOMIC POWER AUTHORITY, APPROACHED VISITING POLITICAL COUNSELOR KREISBERG AND POINTED UP THE CRITICAL PROBLEM ARISING FROM CONTINUED DELAY IN ISSUING LICENSE FOR THE EXPORT OF URANIUM FUEL FOR THE TARAPUR POWER PLANT. SHAH SAID THAT UNLESS FUEL WERE RECEIVED IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS THE FUEL ELEMENT PRODUCTION FACILITY WOULD BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED.

3. THERE WAS NO OPPORTUNITY TO QUERY SHAH AS TO WHETHER HIS REFERENCE WAS ONLY TO THE PART OF THE NFC COMPLEX PRODUCING FOR TARAPUR, OR WHETHER A BROADER SHUTDOWN MIGHT BE INVOLVED. IT IS CLEAR IN ANY CASE THAT THE DELAY IS OF
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REAL CONCERN TO THE INDIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION. IN THIS

CONTEXT IT IS WORTH NOTING THE IMPORTANCE THE INDIANS ATTACH TO NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH THE US AT THE WORKING LEVEL AND RELATIONSHIPS HAVE BEEN EXCELLENT. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT A DECISION ON THE EXPORT LICENSE MATTER BE MADE PROMPTLY AS FURTHER DELAY WILL CREATE SUSPICIONS REGARDING WHETHER THERE ARE OTHER THAN TECHNICAL FACTORS INVOLVED IN THE US DECISION. THESE IN TURN WILL COMPLICATE THE OVERALL DIALOGUE WE MUST HAVE WITH THE GOI ON NUCLEAR MATTERS.
SAXBE

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Message Attributes

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